

The Rarest Set
Of Gold Coins
In The World

History Of The Coinage Of Augustus Saint-Gaudens

By the turn of the century Augustus Saint-Gaudens (1848-1907) had long since achieved world-wide recognition as a sculptor. At a dinner with President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, the two men found themselves in a discussion of the beauty to be found in the high relief coins of Ancient Greece. It was at that dinner that the President asked Saint-Gaudens to submit designs for a new coin using a classical motif. The design of United States gold coinage had not appreciably changed for more than a half century; and the President's request marked the first time that an "outside sculptor" was asked to design some of our coins.

Keenly aware of their discussion over dinner, and aiming at the classical beauty sought in the proposed coins, Saint-Gaudens created a series of designs which are easily the equal of the most beautiful coins ever struck, anywhere in the world.

The obverse design of the Double Eagle was believed by many to have been inspired by "Victory" in the Sherman Monument, New York (1903). It is our opinion however, that the statue of Winged Victory of Samothrace, now in the Louvre, played a major role in Saint-Gaudens' design. The reverse was modeled after the Flying Eagle Cent (1856) by Longacre after C. Gobrecht. The original design was introduced in 1907 and executed in high relief. This was modified later in 1907 by lowering the relief; a modification accomplished by Charles Barber, the Chief Engraver of the Mint, with the help of Henry Hering, who studied and worked with Saint-Gaudens.

The obverse design of the Eagle was, to some degree, the idea of President Roosevelt, for he had suggested the use of the head of Liberty with a feathered head-dress. The reverse displays the eagle which was used on the Inaugural Medal of 1905. It is likely that the eagle was inspired originally by the Tetradrachm of the Ptolemies of Ancient Egypt, circa 2nd Century B.C.

These new designs further incorporated a wholly different and distinctive edge device. Stars for the Eagle, and Stars and Letters for the Double Eagle.



123 WEST 57TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

The Unique Set Of Augustus Saint-Gaudens Coinage

The incredible set of Augustus Saint-Gaudens coins, described and illustrated in this brochure, was first discovered by Stack's in 1955, nearly fifty years after the coins were struck. It was purchased from the North family through one of the sons, Captain Andrew North, Retired, U.S. Navy, who resided in San Diego, California.

Unquestionably the rarest set of gold coins in the world; it consists of seven (7) Double Eagles; three of which are unique; and four (4) Eagles. They are superbly mounted in a custom-made, specially fitted leather box.

Stack's placed the set on public exhibition for the first time at the 1956 American Numismatic Association Convention in Chicago, where it created tremendous interest and won the Blue Ribbon Award for "Excellency of Exhibit". Following that premier showing it was sold by private treaty, remaining in the possession of one family for the past quarter century.

Now, once again, it is Stack's privilege to offer this fantastic set for sale to the collecting fraternity.

DIE 1

1907
Ultra High Relief
Double Eagle



- Obverse: Liberty standing, two folds in drape; Roman Numerals.
- Reverse: Flying eagle.
- Edge: PLAIN.
- Die characteristics: Reverse die broken, 8 o'clock.
- Condition: Proof.
- Rarity: UNIQUE.

DIE 1 A

1907
Ultra High Relief
Double Eagle



- Obverse: Liberty standing, two folds in drape; Roman Numerals.
- Reverse: Flying eagle.
- Edge: LETTERED.
- Die characteristics: Edge device INVERTED.
- Condition: Proof.
- Rarity: UNIQUE.

DIE 2

1907 High Relief Double Eagle



- Obverse: Liberty standing, three folds in drape; Roman Numerals.
- Reverse: Flying eagle.
- Edge: LETTERED, curved top U's, found only on Proofs.
This edge device was used on the Ultra High Relief.
- Die characteristics: High Relief, WIRE EDGE.
- Condition: Proof.
- Rarity: 12 struck (?)

DIE 2A

1907
High Relief
Double Eagle



- Obverse: Liberty standing, three folds in drape; Roman Numerals.
- Reverse: Flying eagle.
- Edge: LETTERED, curved top U's, found only on Proofs.
This edge device was used on the Ultra High Relief.
- Die characteristics: High Relief, FLAT EDGE.
- Condition: Proof.
- Rarity: 12 struck (?)

DIE 3

1907
Arabic Date
Double Eagle



- Obverse: Liberty standing; "Arabic" Numerals.
- Reverse: Flying eagle.
- Edge: LARGE LETTERS, not used on any other Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle.
- Die characteristics: Flat Relief.
- Condition: Proof.
- Rarity: UNIQUE.

DIE 4

1907 Arabic Date Double Eagle



- Obverse: Liberty standing; "Arabic" Numerals.
- Reverse: Flying eagle.
- Edge: Adopted size lettering.
- Die characteristics: Flat or Modified Relief.
- Condition: Uncirculated.
- Rarity: 361,667 struck.

DIE 5

1908
Motto
Double Eagle



- Obverse: Liberty standing.
Reverse: Flying eagle, IN GOD WE TRUST below.
Edge: Adopted size lettering.
Die characteristics: With Motto.
Condition: Uncirculated.
Rarity: 156,359 struck.

DIE 1

1907
Wire Edge
Eagle



Obverse: Indian head.

Reverse: Eagle, lettering with PERIODS before and after each word.

Edge: WIRE.

Condition: Proof.

Rarity: 500 struck.

DIE 2

1907
Rolled Edge
Eagle



Obverse: Indian head.

Reverse: Eagle, lettering with PERIODS before and after each word.

Edge: ROLLED.

Condition: Proof.

Rarity: 42 struck.

DIE 3

1907
No Motto
Eagle



Obverse: Indian head.

Reverse: Eagle.

Edge: As adopted.

Condition: Uncirculated.

Rarity: 239,406 struck.

DIE 4

1908
Motto
Eagle



Obverse: Indian head.

Reverse: Eagle.

Edge: As adopted.

Condition: Uncirculated.

Rarity: 341,486 struck.



*The Unique Set Of
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\$1,000,000*

Stack's

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